

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 126112

O 131850Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9342

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12096

EXDIS

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, IS, FR

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97TH EXBD: ISRAEL & UNESCO

REF: STATE 107691

1. DURING MAY 12 CORRIDOR CONVERSATION INITIATED BY ISRAELI DEL, BAKER QUERIED LAMBERT WHETHER SHE HAD CONVEYED TO SECRETARIAT POSITION RE LEMAIRE VISIT WHICH SHALEV CONVEYED TO ATHERTON (REFTEL). LAMBERT SAID SHE HAD NOT DONE SO AND WOULD NOT DO SO EXCEPT IN RESPONSE TO EVENTUAL NEW INITIATIVE FROM UNESCO SECRETARIAT. SHE WOULD, HOWEVER, DO SO IF SECRETARIAT PROPOSED LEMAIRE VISIT ON SOME BASIS OTHER THAN GC RES ON JERUSALEM.
 2. PRESSED REGARDING HER RESERVE ON THIS POINT, LAMBERT MADE CLEAR THAT ISRAEL WAS NOT ACTUALLY SEEKING A NEW LEMAIRE VISIT AND DID NOT WISH CREATE IMPRESSION IT WAS URGENT OR NECESSARY. THERE WAS ALSO APPARENT IN HER REMARKS SOME ANNOYANCE THAT UNESCO SECRETARIAT, DESPITE PRESENCE OF ISRAEL UNESCO DEL, HAD NOT CONSULTED IT EITHER RE EVOLUTION OF MEETING OF MEDITERRANEAN STATES (WHICH UNESCO NOW CONTENTS WERE NOT CONCEIVED ON
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BASIS MEMBERSHIP IN UNESCO REGIONAL GROUPS) OR RE

M'BOW LETTER RE LEMAIRE VISIT. LAMBERT'S CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS THAT IT WAS UP TO SECRETARIAT TO TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH HER AS TO BEST MANNER AND BEST CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH TO REVIVE PROPOSAL FOR LEMAIRE VISIT.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH PERMREP JONES, FOBES INDICATED HE HAD JUST TALKED WITH MRS. LAMBERT AND THAT SHE HAD STATED TO HIM THAT SHE HAD HEARD THAT THE US HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT GOI MIGHT BE WILLING TO RECEIVE AN INFORMAL VISIT BY PROF. LEMAIRE. HOWEVER, SHE SAID SHE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS ISSUE AND DID NOT INTEND TO PURSUE IT. FOBES HAD NOT CONVEYED THIS INFORMATION TO M'BOW AND JONES SUGGESTED THAT HE DO SO AS IT MIGHT PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR SOME POSITIVE MOVEMENT. FOBES AGREED TO MEET WITH M'BOW AND THOUGHT THAT THE SECRETARIAT MIGHT TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO TALK WITH THE ISRAELIS ABOUT AN INFORMAL VISIT OF LEMAIRE NOT LINKED TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9343

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 12096

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4. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION MORNING MAY 13, FOBES REPORTED TO PERMREP JONES THAT HE HAD CONVEYED THE INFORMATION TO M'BOW BUT THAT M'BOW HAD REACTED RATHER COLDLY. FOBES SAID M'BOW IS STILL UPSET ABOUT RECENT FULL PAGE ADS CRITICIZING UNESCO AND BLAMES THE ISRAELIS FOR THIS. M'BOW HAD SENT ANOTHER LETTER TO GOI ON MARCH 29TH OFFERING TO RESUME CONTACTS, BUT REFERRING TO

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS, AND THIS GOT NO REPLY FROM GOI. FOBES SUGGESTED THAT AN INTERMEDIARY MIGHT BE USEFUL IN BRINGING THE DG AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GOI TOGETHER AND SUGGESTED BOSSIER-PALUN, DAHOMEYAN MEMBER OF EXBD AND CLOSE CONFIDANT OF DG M'BOW.

5. JONES AND BAKER MET WITH BOSSIER-PALUN AFTERNOON MAY 13TH AND DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY HE MEET WITH ISRAELIS AS POSSIBLE ICE BREAKER. PALUN HAD ALREADY TALKED WITH FOBES AND WAS AGREEABLE TO ASSUMING THE ROLE OF INTER-MEDIARY. HE AGREED TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO BEGIN A DIALOGUE WITH MADAME LAMBERT AND ISRAELI PERMREP YAPOU, POSSIBLY OVER A LUNCHEON OR DINNER. PALUN DID NOT EXPRESS GREAT ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MEETING AS HE INDICATED PRIOR EFFORTS HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. HE AGREED TO LET US KNOW THE OUTCOME.

6. COMMENT: AT BEST THIS SEEMS AN OUTSIDE CHANCE TO GENERATE SOME LIGHT IN THE TUNNEL OF THE JERUSALEM ISSUE. ISRAELIS HAVE NOT SHOWN MUCH WILLINGNESS TO SOFTEN LINE, (SEE ACCOMPANYING CABLE OF STULL-YAPOU LUNCH) AND DG CONFIDENTIAL

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M'BOW IS STILL CONSIDERABLY ANNOYED BY WHAT HE FEELS ARE PERSISTENT AND INSPIRED ATTACKS. HOWEVER, BOSSIER-PALUN IS A SKILLED NEGOTIATOR AND MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD BRINGING ABOUT A DIALOGUE. WHETHER THIS MAY ULTIMATELY LEAD TO ANOTHER VISIT BY PROFESSOR LEMAIR, OR OTHERS, IT, AT THIS TIME, TOO EARLY TO PREDICT RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, VISITS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS12096
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750167-1148
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750557/aaaabzrh.tel
Line Count: 149
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 107691
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO 97TH EXBD: ISRAEL & UNESCO
TAGS: PORG, IS, FR, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006